The International Biochar Initiative (IBI) is an international non-profit organization working to promote good industry practices, stakeholder collaboration, and environmental and ethical standards to foster economically viable biochar systems that are safe and effective for use in soil fertility and as a climate mitigation tool.
IBI Online Biochar Training Course – IBI introduced the first ever online biochar course, *Biochar Training for Environmental Sustainability and Economic Development*, with the objective of providing an in-depth understanding of biochar. The course was designed to provide the global biochar community with an opportunity to learn about best-science updates on biochar, to promote the uptake of biochar production and use, and the actions necessary to overcome the barriers to commercialization of the biochar industry. The course contains an introductory overview of biochar, 19 separate lessons, and quizzes to test comprehension and retention—along with a certificate of completion at the conclusion of the course. IBI collaborated with biochar researchers and engineers from Massey University, New Zealand; Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental, Safety, and Energy Technology UMSICHT, Germany; and the Spanish National Research Council to design the course.

IBI Webinar Series – The *IBI Webinar Series* was launched this year, to connect participants to leaders in the biochar field, from business professionals, to producers, to academics. Each monthly webinar speaker presents cutting-edge information, research, and updates to IBI dues-paying members. The series format permits participants to submit questions, real-time, during the webinar. Presentation topics span a variety of regions, technologies, local impacts, and more.

2014 State of the Biochar Industry Report – The 2014 report (published May 2015) was the second annual report presented by IBI to provide a broad overview of the commercial biochar sector as identified in surveys and other data throughout 2014. The report presents information on feedstocks, biochar uses, costs, volumes transacted, production equipment, policies and regulations, barriers to expansion, and market trends and outlook. As a new feature, case studies from five biochar companies were included to examine the diversity of operations that comprise this industry. With the 2013 data to serve as a baseline comparison, the 2014 report highlighted initial trends and changes in the industry; for example, the number of companies included in the report rose from 175 in 2013 to 200 in 2014. The report concludes with recommendations for increased growth to create a vibrant and sustainable biochar industry. For more information, see [http://www.biochar-international.org/State_of_industry_2014](http://www.biochar-international.org/State_of_industry_2014).

IBI Communications Program – IBI’s communications work is the primary vehicle through which we engage biochar stakeholders, and in many cases, introduce new stakeholders to biochar—via our website, monthly newsletter, conference attendance, publications, guides, and other digital materials. This year we saw a 5% increase in overall visitors to our website compared to the prior year and a 30% increase in visitors from two years ago. These visitors came from 220 countries and territories using/representing 184 different languages. As of June 2015, IBI worked with 62 regional biochar groups (listed on our website at [http://www.biochar-international.org/network/communities](http://www.biochar-international.org/network/communities)). Regional biochar groups help support and organize local biochar communities, including research activities and projects applicable to that geographical area.

One of the most visited sections of our website is our biochar bibliography. This electronic bibliography allows users to search for any peer-reviewed publication on biochar. The volume of research continues to increase—for example, the bibliography contains 334 citations from 2012, 427 from 2013, 942 from 2014, and approximately 600 in 2015 (through the end of June 2015). More information can be found at [http://www.biochar-international.org/biblio](http://www.biochar-international.org/biblio).
A Letter from IBI’s Executive Director, Debbie Reed

I thank our community for making this last year such an exciting year for us as an organization and the biochar field as a whole. We could not have accomplished any of our programs without our financial supporters—both members and organizational funders. In particular, I thank the David and Lucile Packard Foundation for their strong and continued support of IBI. I want also to thank IBI’s entire network—our members, followers, contributors, and enthusiasts who make up the core of our organization. And finally, I give thanks to our dedicated staff, our Board of Directors, and the various supporting committees and individuals that we turn to for feedback, advice, information, and direction as we work to bring biochar further into the mainstream.

As a recap of IBI’s achievements and accomplishments during the 2014 – 2015 Fiscal Year, which ended June 30, 2015, I would like to highlight the following specifics in addition to our program accomplishments mentioned on the previous page:

- IBI continued to enhance the utility and accessibility of the IBI Biochar Certification Program, based on the IBI Biochar Standards. It is our continued belief that the IBI Biochar Standards and IBI Biochar Certification Program will add necessary certainty and credibility to the marketplace, and help to remove some of the critical barriers to commercialization of sustainable biochar systems. This year, members from the IBI Board of Directors and staff developed the IBI Biochar Classification Tool which was launched online to complement the existing IBI Biochar Standards. This tool allows users to classify biochars based on a set of physicochemical properties. In addition, the tool provides the fertilizer grade for six plant nutrients (N, P, K, S, Ca and Mg). For more information see http://www.biochar-international.org/classification_tool.

- IBI expanded benefits for our paying members. As a member-funded organization, IBI relies on the community to support our work. To retain existing and add new members, IBI has created additional membership incentives such as the IBI Webinar Series (members have the ability to participate in monthly online presentations and view all prior presentations), access to peer-reviewed white papers on specific biochar topics written by leading academics and practitioners, and access to the full 2014 State of the Biochar Industry report. If you are not yet a member and wish to access these materials, join us at http://www.biochar-international.org/join.

- Our staff and Board of Directors have continued to engage in many other related efforts on behalf of the global biochar community, including organizing and presenting at regional, national, and international biochar conferences, continuing to spread the word on biochar and IBI, and increasing our communications and outreach through materials development. One key piece of this effort was the development and launch of the online biochar course—many of the course lessons and quizzes were created by IBI Board members.

- IBI continued working with multiple biochar-related regulatory agencies to ensure they have an understanding of biochar and its relevance in their areas of regulation, and to promote support of biochar within their respective organizations. We thank these organizations for their willingness to work with us; they include: Placer County, California (for work in support of the Biochar Greenhouse Gas Quantification Protocol), the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO), Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI), European Biochar Certificate (EBC), United States Department of Agriculture National Organics Program (USDA NOP), and the United States Composting Council.

In the next year, we will provide the most timely and accurate information on biochar through our website, newsletter, the IBI Webinar Series, presentations, and all other communications. We are continuing our industry tracking and outreach through data gathering to produce our third State of the Biochar Industry report (for 2015).

We look forward to another busy year and thank you all for your continued and sustained support!

Sincerely,

Debbie Reed
Executive Director, the International Biochar Initiative
Our Members

IBI proudly includes a network of 12,300+ contacts from all over the world. We have paying members in the following membership categories: Sustaining, Business, Organization, Professional, and Student. Our contacts and members are a critical part of our support network and are highlighted below.

![Pie Chart showing membership distribution by country.]

Our Sustaining, Business and Organization Members

**Sustaining Members**
Rick Davies
Johannes Lehmann
Dale Nisbet

**Organization Members**
Alberta Innovates
Ballina Shire Council
Burdekin Bowen Floodplain Management Advisory Committee
Cenipalma
Denmark Biochar Group in Australia
GAIA International, Inc.
International Center for Biosaline Agriculture
MORE Foundation
SI & Ae McCubben

**Business Members**
Advanced Resilient Technology Ltd
Anaerobe Systems
Antaeus International Pty Ltd
Arsta Eco Pvt Ltd
Basques Hardwood Charcoal
Biospecific LLC
Carbon Gold Ltd
Charborn LLC
Community Power Corporation
Control Laboratories, Inc.
Cool Planet
Earth Systems Consulting
Ecoreps
Energy Management Concept
Eprida
Florentaise
Guangdong Dazhong Agricultural Science and Technology Co., Ltd.
Original Green Company
Rainbow Bee Eater LP Pty Ltd
SEEK Fertilizer
Select Carbon
Sexing Technologies
Sonnenerde
The Prasino Group
TR Miles
Vertrolysis
V-Grid Energy Systems
Wakefield Agricultural Carbon
Western Renewable Technologies
Financial Summary

The International Biochar Initiative completed a comprehensive Financial Review in 2014 – 2015, and no material modifications were necessary for its financial records to be in compliance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Revenue and Support

Expenses

2013 – 2014 IBI Board of Directors
1. Marta Camps, Chair of the Board, Massey University, New Zealand
2. Johannes Lehmann, Board Vice-Chair, Cornell University, United States
3. David Wayne, Board Treasurer, Retired, Formally of Shell Research, United Kingdom
4. Andreas Hornung, University of Birmingham and Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental, Safety, and Energy Technology (UMSICHT), United Kingdom/Germany (as of January 1, 2015, Fabian Stenzel is completing Dr. Hornung’s term)
5. John Lewis, Terra Global Capital LLC, United States
6. Warwick Manfrinato, Plant Environmental Intelligence, Brazil
7. Guy Reinaud, Pro-Natura International, France
8. Saran Sohi, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
9. Annette Cowie, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Australia
10. Tom Miles, TR Miles Consulting, United States

2014 – 2015 IBI Staff
1. Debbie Reed, Executive Director
2. Daniel Chapman, Member Services Coordinator
3. Stefan Jirka, Program Manager
4. Shiva Scotti, Administrative Director
5. Thayer Tomlinson, Communications Director

www.biochar-international.org